Kirby pet

Freshwater Fish Compatibility Chart

The compatibility of different fish species and which ones can or can't be mixed together causes a lot of controversy between experts and hobbyists alike. The problem is that there are many different opinions of what species can be kept together successfully and often there are no definite right or wrong answers when it comes to deciding which fish we can keep together in an aquarium – there are always exceptions to the rule with some hobbyists being highly successful at keeping seemingly incompatible fish together.

However, it is important to consider this when purchasing fish to ensure you minimise potential problems in your aquarium, as mixing incompatible species will lead to aggressive behaviour, stress, and the loss of your fish.

This chart is a basic guide to the compatibility of major fish groups and indicates which groups are compatible by dividing them into the following groups:

Compatible: The species will generally mix well together in a community tank.

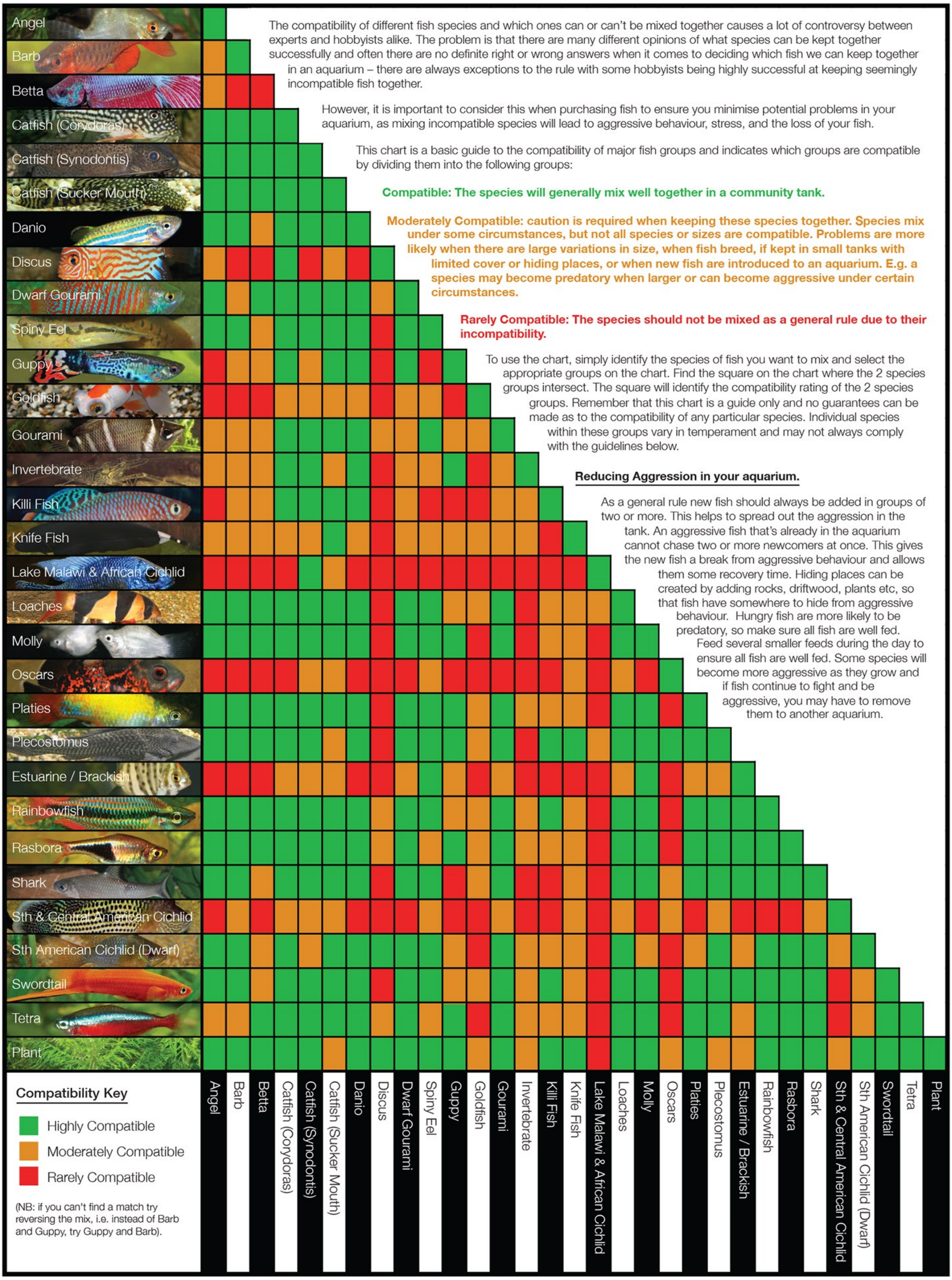
Moderately Compatible: caution is required when keeping these species together. Species mix under some circumstances, but not all species or sizes are compatible. Problems are more likely when there are large variations in size, when fish breed, if kept in small tanks with limited cover or hiding places, or when new fish are introduced to an aquarium. E.g. a species may become predatory when larger or can become aggressive under certain circumstances.

Rarely Compatible: The species should not be mixed as a general rule due to their incompatibility.

To use the chart, simply identify the species of fish you want to mix and select the appropriate groups on the chart. Find the square on the chart where the 2 species groups intersect. The square will identify the compatibility rating of the 2 species groups. Remember that this chart is a guide only and no guarantees can be made as to the compatibility of any particular species. Individual species within these groups vary in temperament and may not always comply with the guidelines below.

Reducing Aggression in your aquarium.

As a general rule new fish should always be added in groups of two or more. This helps to spread out the aggression in the tank. An aggressive fish that's already in the aquarium cannot chase two or more newcomers at once. This gives the new fish a break from aggressive behaviour and allows them some recovery time. Hiding places can be created by adding rocks, driftwood, plants etc, so that fish have somewhere to hide from aggressive behaviour. Hungry fish are more likely to be predatory, so make sure all fish are well fed. Feed several smaller feeds during the day to ensure all fish are well fed. Some species will become more aggressive as they grow and if fish continue to fight and be aggressive, you may have to remove them to another aquarium.



Compatibility Key

- Highly Compatible
- Moderately Compatible
- Rarely Compatible

(NB: if you can't find a match try reversing the mix, i.e. instead of Barb and Guppy, try Guppy and Barb).

© 2012 Kirby Group